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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STEVENS T MASON BUILDING, PO BOX 30028, LANSING MI 48909-7528

WEBSITE: www.michigandnr.com

K. L. COOL, Director

REPLY TO:

FOREST, MINERAL & FIRE MANAGEMENT
PO BOX 30452
LANSING MI 48909-7952

October 8, 2001

TO OG/BS PAT MEMBERS:

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Old Growth and Biodiversity Stewardship Public Advisory Team (PAT). The formation of the PAT is the next step in providing interested parties and organizations an opportunity to participate in the development of an old growth and biodiversity stewardship plan for Michigan's State Forest system and other state owned lands.

The first meeting is scheduled for **Friday, November 2, 2001, 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, in the Mason Building which is located at 530 W. Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan (see enclosed Yahoo! map for more directions). For security purposes, **you will have to have photo identification** with you to be allowed into the building. The meeting room is Conference Room A, on the 5th floor. Please see the receptionist for directions to this room. Lunch will be provided on site.

This time and date was selected as the best fit based on the input from the individuals interested in serving on the PAT. Arranging an acceptable meeting date that works for participants and facilitators has significantly postponed our expected startup. Therefore, if you are unable to attend this meeting, please have someone attend in your absence. You may wish to have an alternate attend scheduled meetings with you as well. Please contact Margaret Spagnuolo (517-335-3352 or spagnuom@state.mi.us) to confirm your attendance. Please advise her of any special dietary requirements.

Dr. Georgia L. Peterson, Michigan State University Extension on assignment with MDNR, Forest Mineral and Fire Management Division, and Dr. Maureen H. McDonough, Professor, MSU Department of Forestry, will facilitate the November 2nd PAT meeting.

At the first meeting, the PAT will need to discuss how meetings will be managed, the number and type of meetings and how decisions will be made. The PAT team should decide whether or not it wishes to have a trained and neutral facilitator for all its meetings; and who or what organization would best fit that need.

As stated in the February 8, 2001 report, "Proposed Old Growth and Biodiversity Stewardship Planning Process and Draft Criteria for Michigan's State Forests and Other State Owned Lands" (OGBS report) the functions of the Public Advisory Team (PAT) are:

1. Work as a team to provide written comments to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Statewide Council regarding the proposed draft criteria and draft land use guidelines contained in the OGBS report.
2. Provide written comments to the MDNR Statewide Council within 120 working days (not including state or federally recognized holidays) of the first meeting. The PAT's final written comments are not anticipated to be done until 2002.
3. Consider any and all outside public comments on the OGBS report and the proposed draft criteria and draft land use guidelines that are received during the 120-day review period.

The Public Advisory Team's written comments will be presented to the DNR Statewide Council for their review and consideration. The Statewide Council is responsible for approving the Old Growth and Biodiversity Stewardship draft criteria and draft guidelines for further public comment and continuation of the process. The Statewide Council, through FMFM, will communicate any changes, modifications, or other responses to the PAT's written comments and recommendations to all Public Advisory Team members.

In the spirit of teamwork and in establishing common ground, the MDNR believes that each PAT member should:

1. Be able to commit adequate time to help the team review and present comments on the report.
2. Be able to find solutions and common ground during the review process.
3. Be able and enabled to speak directly for the group they are representing.
4. Be willing to propose and accept compromise.
5. Make honest and sincere effort to attend all meetings as one's schedule permits or find an alternate to take your place.
6. Be able to work well with those having different interests and ideas regarding the development of an Old Growth and Biodiversity Stewardship system on State lands.
7. Have a sense of humor and are cordial and respectful to one another's views and interests regarding the OGBS planning process.

Prior to the first meeting, please prepare by reviewing the "Proposed Old Growth and Biodiversity Stewardship Planning Process and Draft Criteria for Michigan's State Forests and Other State Owned Lands". Please bring written comments representing your and/or your organization's initial reaction to the report. Please prepare in written form (hard copies for participants) and electronic form (WORD format, 3.5 floppy, include name/organization/date). Also be prepared to discuss comments.

Listed below are the representatives and organizations that have confirmed their participation. A list of PAT members' addresses, phone numbers and electronic mail addresses will be provided at the first meeting.

Current members are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Adam Bump	Ruffed Grouse Society
David Dempsey	Michigan Environmental Council
Patrick Fowler	Huron-Manistee National Forest
Richard Hitz	Mackinaw Forest Council
Alan H. Hastreiter	Timber Producer's Association of MI and WI
Margaret Keeney	Michigan Nature Association
Doug Lee	Michigan Association of Timbermen
Doug Pearsall	The Nature Conservancy-Michigan Chapter
Lynn Stephens	Michigan Forest Association
Anne Woiodode	Sierra Club - Mackinaw Chapter
Vacant	Forest Products Council
Vacant	Michigan United Conservation Clubs

The MDNR attendees on November 2nd will include: Mindy Koch, Chief, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division; Rich Hausler, Program Leader, Environmental Forest Management and current project manager for the OGBS project; Cara Boucher, Section Leader, Forest Resource Management; and Gregory J. Soulliere, Wetland and Waterfowl Specialist, Wildlife Division.

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If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact either Rich Hausler or me. Mr. Hausler may be reached at 517-335-3351, or hauslerr@state.mi.us (e-mail).

Thank you for taking the time to work on the Old Growth and Biodiversity Stewardship Public Advisory Team.

Sincerely,

Mindy Koch
Chief
Forest, Mineral & Fire Management
517-373-1246

Enclosures

cc: K.L. Cool, Director, DNR
Mr. George Burgoyne, Jr., Resource Management Deputy, DNR
Ms. Rebecca Humphries, DNR
Mr. Mike Paluda, DNR
Ms. Cara Boucher, DNR
Mr. Rich Hausler, DNR